

Listing of the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A surgical instrument for performing an anastomosis, comprising:

a housing;

an actuator attached to the housing, said actuator including an actuating rod being selectively movable to deform for deforming at least one surgical fastener;

a firing safety mechanism including a leaf spring having at least one mechanical interface cut out defined therethrough which engages said housing, said cut out of said leaf spring configured to engage a shoulder portion of said actuator to prevent distal movement of said actuator when disposed in an armed position; and

a safety release being selectively activatable to disarm said leaf spring to allow activation of said actuator.

Claim 11 (Canceled):

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A surgical instrument according to claim 44 10 wherein said safety release includes a camming surface which, upon movement thereof, cams said cut out of said leaf spring out of engagement with said actuator.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A surgical instrument according to claim 10 wherein said leaf spring includes a hook-like member which secures said leaf spring to said housing.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A surgical instrument according to claim 10 wherein said safety release includes an upwardly extending contact surface which facilitates actuation of said safety release.

Claims 15-17 (Canceled).